

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 QUEBEC 00268 01 OF 02 041300Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 EB-08
OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /059 W
-----094158 041311Z /42
P 031800Z AUG 78
FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1421
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL MONTREAL

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 QUEBEC 0268

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, CA
SUBJECT: DOGPATCH REVISITED

REF: 77 QUEBEC 0147

1. SUMMARY: MY RECENT VISIT TO GASPE AIMED PRIMARILY AT IDENTIFYING POTENTIAL INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES ALSO ALLOWED ME TO GATHER SOME UP-TO-DATE POLITICAL INFORMATION IN THAT REMOTE REGION OF RURAL QUEBEC. AS ON PAST OCCASIONS, THERE SEEMED BE NO RELUCTANCE TO DISCUSS POLITICS ON THE PART OF THE INTENSELY INDIVIDUALISTIC GASPESIENS. NORMAL RANGE OF OPINIONS EXIST IN GASPE AS ELSEWHERE IN QUEBEC. HOWEVER, MY INFORMANTS WERE MORE POSITIVE IN EXPRESSING THEIR OPINION THAN WHEN I LAST VISITED REGION A YEAR AGO. UNCERTAINTY CAUSED BY SURPRISE ELECTION VICTORY OF PQ AND WISH GIVE NEW GOVERNMENT FAIR CHANCE TO PROVE ITSELF HAVE NOW GREATLY DIMINISHED. END SUMMARY.

2. REFERENDUM:
I MET WITH NO ONE, INCLUDING PQ MILITANTS, WHO THOUGHT A REFERENDUM WHICH CALLED FOR CLEAR MANDATE FOR SOVEREIGNTY-ASSOCIATION COULD GAIN A MAJORITY IN ANY OF THE THREE GASPESIEN PROVINCIAL CONSTITUENCIES OF MATANE, BONAVENTURE, AND GASPE. GASPESIENS ARE A CONSERVATIVE LOT WITH FEW OUTRIGHT INDEPENDENTISTS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 QUEBEC 00268 01 OF 02 041300Z

AMONG THEM. OPPONENTS OF SEPARATISM HAVE REGAINED SELF CONFIDENCE IN GASPE AS THEY HAVE IN OTHER PARTS OF QUEBEC. THE SELECTION OF CLAUDE RYAN AS LEIBERAL LEADER, COUPLED WITH A GROWING FAMILIARITY WITH THE FALLIBILITY OF THE PQ, ARE MOST OFTEN CITED AS FACTORS PROMOTING EQUANIMITY.

3. FEDERAL ELECTIONS:

LIBERALS ARE EXPECTED MAINTAIN THEIR HOLD ON PENINSULA'S THREE RIDINGS, I.E. BONAVENTURE-ILE DE LA MADELEINE, GASPE, AND MEDAPEDIA-MATANE. IN NEIGHBORING RIMOUSKI, FEDERAL MP FOR MATANE, PIERRE DE BANE, ASSURED ME THAT INCUMBENT SOCIAL-CREDIT PARTY MEMBER, EUDORE ALLARD, IS VIRTUALLY CERTAIN TO RETAIN HIS SEAT, DESPITE MENACING CONFLICT OF INTEREST CHARGES. THIS ASSESSMENT WAS CONFIRMED BY SEVERAL OTHERS WHO ARE FAMILIAR WITH SPECIAL CHARACTER OF RIMOUSKI POLITICS WHERE PRESENT MAYOR HAS ALSO BEEN THREATENED WITH CORRUPTION CHARGES. DE BANE COMMENTED THAT HE BELIEVES MOST OF CREDITISTES INCUMBENTS IN QUEBEC WILL RETAIN THEIR SEATS IN SPITE OF TURMOIL WITHIN PARTY. HE POINTS OUT OFTEN HEARD ASSESSMENT THAT CREDITISTES ELECTORAL STRENGTH IN QUEBEC IS BASED ON INDIVIDUAL CANDIDATES WITH STRONG ROOTS IN RURAL CONSTITUENCIES WHOSE SPECIAL INTERESTS THEY CAREFULLY CULTIVATE. DE BANE CONFIDED THAT HE WAS TOLD RECENTLY BY FORMER CREDITISTES LEADER, RENE MATTE, THAT MATTE HAS BEEN OFFERED 75,000 DOLLARS TO JOIN CONSERVATIVES. DE BANE DOUBTS MANY OTHER CREDITISTES WILL FOLLOW MATTE INTO CONSERVATIVE RANKS UNLESS FINANCIAL INDUCEMENTS ARE SPREAD MORE WIDELY.

4. PROVINCIAL POLITICS:

A. BONAVENTURE: EVERYONE WITH WHOM I MET EXPECTS LIBERAL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY LEADER, GERARD D. LEVESQUE, TO HOLD HIS SEAT IN ANY FUTURE ELECTION. PIERRE DE BANE, HOWEVER, WARNED THAT LEVESQUE IS UNLIKELY TO ENJOY THE LARGE MAJORITIES OF THE PAST. HE BELIEVES FUTURE ELECTIONS MORE LIKELY FOLLOW PATTERN SET IN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 QUEBEC 00268 01 OF 02 041300Z

1976 WITH LEVESQUE GAINING SLIGHTLY LESS THAN HALF OF THE VOTE AGAINST STRONG PQ AND UN OPPOSITION. OTHER OBSERVERS IN THE CONSTITUENCY AGREE THAT TWO OR THREE PARTY SYSTEM MAY HAVE COME TO BONAVENTURE, BUT DOUBTED THAT LEVESQUE WILL HAVE DIFFICULTY IN NEXT ELECTION.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 QUEBEC 00268 02 OF 02 041305Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 EB-08
OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /059 W
-----094226 041311Z /42

P 031800Z AUG 78
FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1422
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL MONTREAL

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 QUEBEC 0268

B. GASPE: THERE ARE GOOD PROSPECTS THAT GASPE WILL RETURN LIBERAL IN NEXT ELECTION. PRESIDENT OF CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND PROMINENT LIBERAL POLITICIAN, PAUL ARSENAULT, TOLD ME CONFIDENTIALLY THAT INCUMBENT, MICHEL LE MOIGNAN, MAY LEAVE UNION NATIONALE (UN) AND JOIN LIBERALS IN NEXT ELECTION. ARSENAULT CLAIMS DISCUSSIONS TO THIS END WITH LE MOIGNAN ARE ALREADY "WELL ADVANCED." PIERRE DE BANE, ON OTHER HAND, DOUBTS LE MOIGNAN IS CAPABLE OF WINNING NEXT ELECTION. HE DESCRIBES HIM AS "HOPELESS ALCOHOLIC." MY OWN OBSERVATION IS THAT HEAVY ALCOHOLIC CONSUMPTION IN HARD DRINKING GASPE MAY NOT BE THE POLITICAL DISADVANTAGE THAT RELATIVELY STRAIGHT LACED DE BANE MAY THINK. IN ANY CASE, VIRTUALLY ALL MY INFORMANTS DISMISS ELECTORAL POTENTIAL OF LOCAL PQ LEADER, JULES BELANGER, WHO RAN CLOSE THIRD IN 1976 ELECTION. HE IS SAID TO HAVE ALIENATED DOWN-TO-EARTH GASPESIENS WITH TOO MUCH HIGH FLOWN SOCIAL AND POLITICAL THEORY WHILE DISREGARDING HARSH ECONOMIC FACTS OF LIFE IN GASPE. MOREOVER, UNUSUALLY HIGH PERCENTAGE OF ANGLOPHONES IN RIDING (30-40 PERCENT) VIRTUALLY RULE OUT ELECTION OF PQ CANDIDATE UNLESS FEDERALIST VOTE IS AGAIN DIVIDED ALMOST EVENLY; A MISTAKE FEDERALISTS ARE UNLIKELY TO REPEAT IN GASPE OR ELSEWHERE IN QUEBEC.

C. MATANE: THE INCUMBENT, MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES, YVES
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 QUEBEC 00268 02 OF 02 041305Z

BERUBE, HAS BEEN WORKING HARD TO BUILD A POLITICAL BASE IN THIS CONSTITUENCY BUT STILL LACKS STRONG LOCAL ROOTS. IN ABSENCE OF STRONG LOCAL CANDIDATE, PIERRE DE BANE BELIEVES MATANE WILL FOLLOW VOTING TRENDS IN THE REST OF THE PROVINCE. BERUBE'S REELECTION, HE CONTENTS, DEPENDS LESS ON LOCAL FACTORS AND MORE ON LARGER TRENDS IN VOTER SENTIMENT. SUCCESS IN NEXT ELECTION IN MATANE WILL DEPEND ON WHICH DIRECTION SUCH TRENDS TAKE. OTHERS, INCLUDING SEVERAL MEMBERS OF TOWN COUNCIL, ASSERT THAT BERUBE'S ELECTION WAS PHENOMENON UNLIKELY BE REPEATED. THEY FORESEE UNSPECIFIED LIBERAL CANDIDATE WITH LOCAL TIES BEING SUCCESSFUL IN NEXT ELECTION. LOCAL SENTIMENT HAS SWUNG STRONGLY TOWARDS LIBERALS, THEY CONTEND, SINCE RYAN ASSUMED LEADERSHIP. MATANE IS NOW ONLY CONSTITUENCY IN GASPESIE WITH PQ REPRESENTATIVE. I TEND AGREE WITH DE BANE'S ASSESSMENT THAT VOTERS LIKELY AGAIN FOLLOW DOMINANT TREND IN REST OF EASTERN QUEBEC. AT PRESENT, PENDULUM SEEMS TO HAVE SWUNG IN LIBERALS'

FAVOR. HOWEVER, HIGHLY FLUID POLITICAL SITUATION IN QUEBEC
MAKES PREDICTION HAZARDOUS.
MCNAMARA

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROVINCE, VISITS, INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978QUEBEC00268
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780319-0142
Format: TEL
From: QUEBEC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197808102/aaaadhqg.tel
Line Count: 173
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 030d0358-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 QUEBEC 147
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1546953
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DOGPATCH REVISITED
TAGS: PINT, CA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/030d0358-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014